Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the S/360 mainframe.

1964
"Congratulations! It's a mainframe" The S/360 mainframe is born. It's named after the degrees in a circle (since it was meant to "encompass every need of every user.") For the first time, companies can run mission critical applications for business on a highly secure platform with interchangeable software and peripherals.

1969
"Houston, we have a solution" IMS/360, IBM software, several System/360 Model 75s and the System/360 Model 95 help achieve mankind's first successful landing on the moon: Apollo 11, July 20, 4:17:40 EDT.

1972
"Virtual reality" VM virtualization is announced, helping to improve asset management and lay the groundwork for the on demand world. Today, zVM® helps create an agile mainframe where resources can be utilized effectively and quickly in response to marketplace requirements with improved security, and 24/7 availability.

1979
"Meet your customer" IBM introduces the Universal Product Code (UPC), followed by holographic scanner technology. Together, they help revolutionize the retail industry and highlight the continuing critical role for mainframes in customer transactions and inventory tracking databases.

1988
"Where no data has gone before" Using the mainframe, customers can deploy the DB2 database beyond "decision support systems" and into core transactional processing. This helps reduce CPU costs and improve multitasking—and also helps establish DB2 on the mainframe as a powerful foundation for future enterprise application development.

1994
"Yes, we're available" IBM announces the System/390® Parallel Sysplex® Offering, which allows for very high levels of system availability, and deploys CMOS technology that greatly improves the system's cooling, floorspace and electrical requirements—helping to reduce operating costs for customers.

2000
"Is that a penguin in your mainframe?" Linux appears on the zSeries, a demonstration of IBM's commitment to leading edge technology and open standards. The combination brings together the revolutionary flexibility of open source computing with the legendary scalability and reliability of the mainframe.

2003
"Making our ideals real" The IBM Mainframe Charter puts a framework around its intention to continue to deliver innovation and expand zSeries value as we introduce the z990—as well as to support the zSeries community when customers strive to build on demand businesses.

2004
"And now..." Introducing the zSeries 890 for mid-size enterprises. Now customers can better align their software costs with the specific workloads they utilize. Giving them the ability to pay in smaller increments and better manage costs.

1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

1964
"Flying high" The Sabre System launches—a two-year project between IBM and American Airlines to develop the first reservation system to work over phone lines in real time and connect terminals across numerous U.S. cities. This system introduced high-speed links between distributed computers to handle inventory and reservations and contributed to the initial development of the S/360.

1968
"Information please" Customer Information Control System (CICS®) debuts, bringing computer applications out of the machine room and allowing companies to enter, update and retrieve data in the workplace. Today, CICS continues to help millions do their jobs better, utilizing thousands of applications more efficiently.

1972
"Your order is ready" SAP develops a revolutionary Enterprise Resource Planning system for the S/360. For the first time, companies can place orders and track inventory in real time, helping to improve inventory control, delivery time and customer relations.

1976
"Analyze this" SAS software on a System/370 helps create a new competitive edge: business intelligence. This innovation transforms raw data into actionable intelligence that can help organizations develop more profitable customer and supplier relationships, and enable better, more accurate decisions. Real world examples: census analyses; faster pharmaceutical drug development; and election predictions.

1980
"Bank on it" Running on an S/370, CSC Hogan's Banking System becomes the first integrated US core banking system designed using an architectural framework. Today, the mainframe is a platform for top-tier banks worldwide.
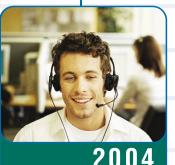
1999
"Let the chips fall where they may" The powerful IBM S/390 Generation 6 debuts—the first enterprise server to use IBM's innovative copper chip technology. Designed to handle the unpredictable demands of e-business, the zSeries helps extend customers' ability to handle millions of e-business workload transactions and large-scale Enterprise Resource Planning applications.

2000
"Two new firsts" IBM eServer® zSeries® 900, a mainframe designed with e-business as its primary function. Designed to handle the unpredictable demands of e-business, the zSeries can allow thousands of servers to operate within one box; IBM also introduces z/OS®, a new 64-bit operating system.

2003
"Your money's safe with us" S2 Systems OpeN/2 on IBM zSeries servers enables transaction payment systems that deliver greater scalability and reliability, while enabling financial service providers to leverage newer technologies for smart cards and mobile services from advanced function ATMs.

2004
"Making it happen" Fidelity Information Services leverages the power of zSeries models 800, 900 and 990 to develop next-generation financial services technology: banking components designed so that any size institution can use them to support real time, around the clock, on demand mortgage, deposit and lending operations.